# Let Them Eat Plague!

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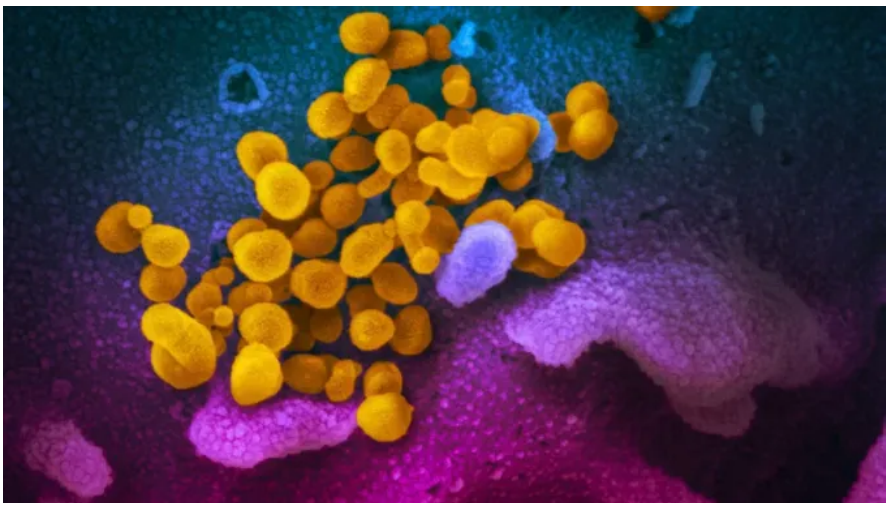


**COVID emerging from cells using false-color images from an electron scanning microscope.**

## RECENT LONG-READS

> *"When one individual inflicts injury upon another such that death results, we call that manslaughter. When society places hundreds in a position that they inevitably meet early & unnatural death … its deed is murder just as the individual."*
>
> *Friedrich Engels, The Conditions of the Working Class in England*

We have been betrayed. For three years, we have been abandoned, misled, shepherded to our dooms. Millions have died. Hundreds of millions have been disabled. All the while, respectable faces with plastered-on grins breathlessly offer hopeful platitudes, assuring us we'll all be ok. *Just trust the system.*

You could be forgiven for not realizing we're still in the middle of a pandemic, considering the total absence of media coverage. If it was important, you'd surely be hearing about it, right? The last variant you heard about was likely omicron. The last you heard about vaccines was likely "we strongly encourage everyone to get boosted." The last you heard about masks was that they work, but they're not required. And why would you bother

**People's Republic o Walmart: Salvageab Trainwrec**

*Aug 3, 2023*

Phillips and Rozwor ski's People's Republi c of Walmar t may be a dunghe ap of utopian ideolog y, but hidden within is a gem worth polishin g.

**Missing and Murdered Indigenou Women and the Class Struggle i Canada**

*Jul 14, 2023*

The settler state and its police refuse to search for the bodies of Indigen ous women. The govern ment will always give excuses .

wearing masks anyway if, as the United States president himself proclaimed, "The pandemic is over"?

Here's the truth: the pandemic is not over. It's much worse than you have been led to believe. And unless you've spent the past several years reading scientific studies on the subject, it can be hard to convey *just how wrong* the public perception of COVID really is. Everything from how it's spread, to how it's prevented, to what it does once it's in your body, is being tragically misunderstood.

None of this is an accident. It's not your "fault" if you aren't a virologist, immunologist, epidemiologist, or evolutionary biologist. It's the job of experts and trusted voices to convey the truth and give you guidance. Not only have they failed at this, they have engaged in an active disinformation campaign dedicated to making the pandemic "disappear". This has not been the result of a classic caricature of conspiracy — some tiny council of elites, gathered in the shadows to craft policy out of whole cloth.

**The Society Behind the Court: The Federalist and the Supreme Court's Fascist Blitzkrieg**

*Jul 8, 2023*

The Federalists have patiently built their forces over the last four decades, slowly but surely cementing foothold ds in the federal judiciary, in preparation for an all-out war of conquest.

**EPISODES IN REVOLUTIONARY**

What we're actually witnessing is the quiet collusion of class interest. This form of conspiracy is a feature of cultural hegemony, and it has aligned itself in direct opposition to public health and scientific reality. A "conspiracy" of this sort takes place in full view of the public. Every actor within it has openly telegraphed motivations that we are all taught to see as acceptable: keeping the current economic system intact at all costs.

From the moment humanity learned of the novel coronavirus, uncertainty swirled. SARS-CoV-2, named for its terrifying viral cousin, seemed to be even worse than SARS: more deadly, more transmissible, better at evading detection. A singular question arose in the minds of two very different classes of people: "How do we survive this?" For one of those classes, the question was literal: how do we avoid *being killed* by a disease that seems to be spreading and killing invisibly and indiscriminately? For the other class, the question being asked in boardrooms and capitols was really: "Could this dislodge

**HISTORY**

**Revolutior History: T Commune Dead — Lc Live the Commune**

*May 30, 2023*

152 years ago, the city of Paris threw off the shackles of the reactionary government of France and repudiated the conservative political order.

**Revolutior History: T Haymarke Massacre the Origin May Day**

*May 1, 2023*

Eight men — socialist and anarchist leaders — stood accused. The trial, Illinois v. Spies et al., started on June 21, 1886, and went on until August 11. The judge

our grip on power?"

For infectious disease experts, the emergence of an unknown human pathogen — quickly identified as a novel virus — necessitated a pretty clear course of action: contain it, characterize it, and share information as freely as possible. Days after the first cluster of cases were found in Wuhan, **Chinese health authorities issued a warning to the WHO**. The full genome of the virus that would come to be called SARS-CoV-2 was released to the world **before it was even documented outside of China**. Coronavirus labs around the world began mobilizing rapidly to study the virus, including creating synthetic versions to study in cultured mammalian cells to learn as much as possible about its life cycle and pathogenicity.

Why did experts mobilize so quickly, even before human-to-human transmission was conclusively proven? The primary reason is the **precautionary principle**: when dealing with an unknown, if you don't *know* conclusively that it *isn't* dangerous,

**Revolutior History: Babeuf an the Conspirac Equals, 17**

*Nov 29, 2022*

A radical faction attempted to carry the French Revolution into an egalitarian utopia. Although they failed, their conspiracy would inspire revolutionaries for centuries to come, including Marx and Lenin.

**FEATURED LONG-READS**

presume the worst case scenario and take the proper precautions. If that wasn't enough of a reason, researchers figured out pretty quickly that this was a relative of SARS, which has caused enough mayhem on its own to warrant every measure possible to avoid a repeat tragedy. This principle was particularly upheld in China, which had borne the brunt of the SARS crisis, but true precaution never truly materialized in the capitalist world.

After a brief experiment in precautionary measures (stay-at-home orders, mask mandates, quarantine guidelines) many countries in the West quickly saw the writing on the wall — these precautions were not sufficient to stamp out the emerging pandemic. There were measures that *could* have stopped the virus in its tracks: contact tracing (testing every single person who was in the vicinity of a potential case), *enforced* quarantines combined with guaranteed paid time off for even the hint of exposure, mandating fitted respirators (and distributing multiple N95s to every resident). But these

**The White Left is Building Cop City**

*Mar 2, 2023*

While mostly white "leftists" were inventing strategies based on missing analysis, there was an organization in the city doing all of this better: Community Movement Builders.

**Against the NATO–Russian War**

*Jan 16, 2023*

The war in Ukraine," the imperialists say, "is a war of Russian aggression. It began in February of 2022, when the Russian Federation invaded the Donbass." But beware! The imperialist

measures would have required central governments to nationalize key industries, companies to pay employees *not* to work, and individuals to get comfortable with some discomfort in the name of social welfare (although many already were). These measures would have been a tremendous imposition on the free market, and even then, there was no guarantee they would completely eradicate SARS-CoV-2.

Even half measures, like local mask mandates, were better than nothing, and they did keep many people safe in the beginning. But despite them being utterly insufficient in the face of the crisis we were thrust into, they were still too much for the capitalists to tolerate. They were "harming the economy" by impeding production and discouraging consumption. Tiny protests, led by business owners demanding an end to "restrictions," garnered massive media attention. Less than 2 months after their implementation, stay-at-home orders were already on their way out, even as cases continued to

**Let Them Eat Plague!**

*Jan 9, 2023*

The pandemic is not over. It's much worse than you've been led to believe. And unless you've spent the past several years reading scientific studies on the subject, it can

**A Revolution within the Revolution: The Triumph of Cuba's New Family Code**

*Oct 1, 2022*

Cuba's new Family Code is the culmination of decades of emancipatory struggle and progress under the island-nation's socialist revolution — a world-historical triumph and a brilliant light of hope.

rapidly climb. Injected into every news story about the pandemic was a consideration for the malaise of the capitalists, whose economic ruin would surely spell the end of our society. The drive to "end the pandemic" began almost as soon as the pandemic arrived in the U.S.

### The Lies and the Truth

Near the beginning of the pandemic, you may have heard a common refrain from public health sources: if we address the situation properly, it'll look like we overreacted. And yet, by the time community transmission started ramping up in the U.S. in March 2020, we had already failed to "overreact." The consensus had already come in from the highest levels: at all costs, do NOT start a panic. World leaders at the time, including the U.S.'s Donald Trump, the U.K.'s Boris Johnson, Mexico's Andrés Manuel López Obrador, Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro, Spain's Pedro Sánchez, and Italy's Giuseppe Conte, all spent the first few months of 2020 exhorting the public not to "give in to

**As a Searcher for Guns**

*Aug 22, 2022*

To end the plague of gun violence, the problem must be addressed at its evil root: the fundamental economic relations of the United States Empire.

**Capital's Supreme Defender: The Capitalist Class and the Supreme Court of the United States**

*Aug 22, 2022*

The court system, like the bourgeois state itself, serves a dual purpose: repression of the oppressed and mediation for the oppressors.

**SEARCH THE GLOSSARY OF MARXISM-LENINISM**

SEARCH...

fear." Following precipitous stock market crashes in February and March of 2020, every market analysis firm reported on the tremendous financial damage being done by "coronavirus concerns." The overwhelming narrative in the early days was that fear of the virus would be worse than the disease it causes. This philosophy manifested in several ways, including outright lies that still haunt us to this day, driving misinformed "personal risk assessments" among the population, including:

- Masks don't work.
- Masks *do* work, but cloth masks are fine.
- Stop the spread by washing hands, standing 6 feet apart, and sanitizing surfaces.
- COVID is not airborne
- COVID *is* airborne, but that's not the main way it spreads.
- The only people harmed by COVID are old and immunocompromised people.
- Children don't get COVID.
- Children can get COVID, but they can't spread it.
- Reinfections are rare.
- Breakthrough infections after vaccination are rare.
- Reinfections and breakthrough infections happen, but they're mild.
- Once enough people have been exposed, herd immunity will end the pandemic.
- Viruses naturally evolve to become less deadly.
- Once you recover from acute infection, you're out of the woods.

- Long COVID is psychological, not physical.
- Long COVID *is* physical, but not a big concern.
- Heightened lethality of non-COVID diseases is due to "immunity debt."

The list of officially-sanctioned lies could potentially go on for pages. The most critical feature of the misinformation is that it is always centered around that same core philosophy of minimization. That trend continued to evolve throughout the pandemic: whether it's Anthony Fauci admitting that he discouraged masks because he didn't want to trigger panic-buying, the CDC shifting its metrics from transmission levels to "community levels" in soothing pastel colors, school districts touting their supposed low transmission rates, or any of the other examples of public health malpractice, everything has been geared toward pushing people to *under*estimate danger rather than *over*estimate. This pattern has continued to this day, with **officials attempting to head off panic** in the face of the **extremely infectious and immune-evasive XBB.1.5 variant** (colloquially referred to as the "Kraken" variant).

Before going further, let's clarify what that danger actually is. Because of how complex biological systems are, it is difficult to convey all the nuance of a viral pandemic without getting too technical. Nevertheless, we can make some pretty clear assertions, based on condensing hundreds of scientific studies into a few paragraphs. With that in mind, here's everything you need to know about COVID-19 and the virus that causes it:

**COVID is airborne**. Airborne transmission is different from droplets, which are large particles containing the virus, expelled when you speak, cough, sneeze, etc. Droplets are heavy enough that they will eventually drop to the ground or nearby surfaces, meaning it's *relatively* easy to contain: any physical barrier — like a cloth mask or plexiglass — will block these droplets before they can reach another person. "Social distancing" is a concept that applies to droplet transmission, under the presumption that the virus-containing droplets will fall to the ground before reaching someone 6 feet away. Sanitizing surfaces kills any

viral droplets that have landed on them before someone can touch them and then touch their orifices.

**However, COVID is *not* confined to droplets**. We have known for years that it can spread through *aerosol* as **papers published in the New England Journal of Medicine**, **Emerging Infectious Diseases**, and **Risk Analysis** demonstrate going back to 2020. Aerosol is composed of much smaller particles that bounce around between air particles, **and can stay suspended and infectious in the air**. Picture someone smoking: the behavior of the smoke is much more akin to the behavior of viral aerosols. Can you still smell the smoke behind a plexiglass shield? How about if you're six feet apart? In a crowded, enclosed space, how many people would breathe in the smoke of one smoker? Measures designed to protect against droplets aren't exactly *pointless* against COVID, since it *also* spreads via droplets. But just because you're not spewing COVID-laden spittle in someone's face does not mean you're keeping your germs to yourself.

**You can get COVID over and over**. The idea that you become immune to COVID after getting infected or vaccinated is based on the concept of *immune memory*. Every time a pathogen enters your body (either through infection or vaccination), your immune system mounts a defense to stop it: first a broad "kill anything that moves" phase we call *innate immunity*, then a phase of *adaptive immunity*, which is targeted to kill the specific thing that triggered the immune response. Pieces of the invader are used to create, recruit, and activate a variety of immune components — including antibodies, T cells, and B cells — that are trained to recognize that specific pathogen. Some cells of the immune system, called memory cells, are kept around from that second stage as a sort of permanent record. If the exact same pathogen shows up again, the immune system already knows what to look for. This is the key behind vaccination: expose your immune system to a harmless piece of the virus, and it'll remember it when it encounters the real thing.

Except this isn't even close to the whole story. For one thing, the snapshot stored in your immune memory is just a physical piece of the pathogen, and viruses evolve very quickly. As the virus changes, **the real thing starts to resemble the record being kept by your immune system less and less, and it becomes easier and easier for new variants to evade adaptive immunity**. The more people that get infected, the more times the virus randomly mutates — and **the more likely it is that a particular combination of those mutations makes a virus that is unrecognizable to your immune system.** For a while, the WHO used to categorize these mutants as "variants of concern," giving them each a new name. **When the virus mutated enough to evade the immunity to the wild-type virus, they named it alpha.** The lineage that was able to evade alpha was called beta. Delta was **particularly immune evasive and its mutations brought high levels of lethality.** Omicron was so different from all existing strains that **it was practically able to infect *everyone*, no matter when they got infected and/or**

vaccinated. And then... they stopped giving the variants names. "Omicron" is still used to describe every descendant of that original variant, despite the dozens of highly-infectious, highly dangerous variants circulating today, none of which look enough like omicron itself for your immune system to efficiently recognize them.

**COVID screws with your immune system.** Upon infection, SARS-CoV-2 immediately gets to work suppressing attempts to stop it. It hijacks your cells' machinery to *shut down production* of crucial immune system alarms. This includes the component used to present pieces of the virus on the surface of the cell to tell the immune system "Hey! This cell is infected, and here's the culprit!" This component is necessary for specific immune cells to identify the target and proceed with the adaptive immune response, leading to both delayed innate and adaptive immune response.

When immune cells arrive on the scene, the SARS-CoV-2 virus is able to *infect them*

*as well*. **Monocytes, which are involved in ushering in the adaptive immune response, get infected by SARS-CoV-2,** and ***are reprogrammed*** **to prevent them from presenting antigens and teaching the adaptive immune system what to look for. T cells rush to become cell killers, causing the signature massive tissue damage that can be fatal in severe cases.** Every infection depletes your body's reserve of naïve T cells — that pool of "blank" immune cells your body keeps on hand for later deployment and specialization — damaging your ability to mount an effective immune response to *future* infections — including other pathogens. This is why, no matter how many people get infected or vaccinated, we have not — and will not — reach "herd immunity." **Naïve T cells are also necessary for *stopping* the cell-killing activity of activated T cells, which is a factor in the severity of acute COVID.** Worse still, the population is steadily becoming more vulnerable to infections of all types. We are in the middle of an alarming surge of diseases *beyond* just COVID: RSV,

influenza, strep A, and many others are hospitalizing people in record numbers — **opportunistic infections,** handed the gift of **a softened-up population of victims.**

For a while, vaccines were highly effective against severe acute infections — not because they prevented infection or created lasting immunity, but because they prompted your body to create antibodies to the virus, which can persist in your blood for months. If you got infected while these antibodies were present, it helped your immune system compensate for the virus's suppression of adaptive immunity. Your immune response was less likely to go haywire, cause massive tissue damage, and lead to severe clinical outcomes. However, by the time boosters became available, **the vaccines were already obsolete**: they were engineered to target the original version of the virus, which you were already unlikely to ever see again.

**COVID evolves rapidly.** An idea has been floating around for years that SARS-CoV-2 will naturally reach an "evolutionary

ceiling," where it can no longer adapt around our immune systems, and will become no more pathogenic than a cold. This is predicated on a misunderstanding of evolutionary and viral dynamics. The main factors guiding the evolution of the virus are: how well it can spread from person-to-person, how well it can infect cells, and how well it can evade the immune system. This latter factor is the most crucial since, as previously noted, the virus's effect on the immune system is a significant driver of its danger. The idea of an evolutionary ceiling stems from the notion that, in order to adapt around our immune system, the virus needs to change, and those changes necessarily impact its other features — namely its ability to spread and infect. But this is not the case.

As the virus spreads, it racks up mutations. Every new host gives the virus trillions of opportunities to mutate before sending it on to the next victim. By the time SARS-CoV-2 first took over the world, it had already diverged so thoroughly into separate lineages, giving rise to variants

like alpha, beta, delta, and omicron. The Omicron lineage eventually emerged with another profoundly unique and highly-infectious set of mutations, and followed the same pattern. In its wake, it left behind many more child lineages, each distinct enough from each other to create a "variant cloud." For months, the various omicron sublineages have been unable to outcompete each other, because none has had a set of adaptations so exceptionally advantageous as to outstrip the spread of the others. However, as the mutations continue to accumulate across all lineages, it's only a matter of time before a new mega-variant emerges. It will sweep across the population, again diverging as it goes, spawning new lineages of its own — and leaving millions dead and disabled in its wake.

**COVID is persistent.** We've known for years that other coronaviruses, like SARS, **can persist in your body long after initial infection.** This is likely a byproduct of their evolutionary history; they evolved to spread through bat populations and survive bats' unique immune systems.

Bats are very long-lived for their size, potentially living for *decades*, even with multiple different infections quietly simmering inside them. However, in humans, these viruses' tactics for suppressing a well-regulated bat immune system present a form of *overwhelming force*, which wreaks havoc on our bodies.

After the chaotic and potentially-lethal initial stage of acute infection, **the virus is able to settle in for the long haul** — evidence has been found **in the gut, in human waste, and among "cured" patients.** This can happen whether the acute phase was disastrous and hospital-worthy, or quiet enough for you to experience no symptoms at all. By this point, the virus will have suppressed your body's immune memory, infiltrated throughout various organ systems — including your **cardiovascular, nervous,** and renal systems — and begun pumping out a steady supply of new virus. Of course, this persistent infection causes damage to the various organs where the virus has made its home, especially since it can trigger further inflammation. Your

immune system is constantly trying to smoke it out, damaging more organ tissue as it does so. **Your risk of heart attacks, strokes, neurological symptoms, and death in general are much higher during this persistent phase** — and it only gets worse with every reinfection. It still remains unclear how long this persistent phase can last — certainly as many months as have been studied so far.

Evidence has been mounting for years that COVID is actually a type of autoimmune disorder, with several components of your **immune system turning against your own cells.** Not only are pro-inflammatory molecules heightened in both the acute infection and in so-called long COVID, **high levels of antibodies against normal cellular pieces have been found in *over half* of patients hospitalized with COVID.** The implications of COVID triggering autoimmunity are broad and can get fairly technical, but needless to say, **the population being infected over and over with such a debilitating virus is catastrophic.**

**The Motive**

Why would governments, public health officials, news media, business leaders, and every other trusted voice tell us outright lies (such as "COVID is **not** airborne!") and avoid highlighting crucial truths (such as COVID's propensity to damage immune systems)? Why would such a simple thing as distributing and mandating the proper usage of high-quality respirators — a layup of public health policy — be portrayed as being so toxic that to suggest it would get you laughed out of the room? Why would institutions like the CDC casually mention the existence of long COVID with one breath, and with the next, pat themselves on the back for "diminished hospitalizations"? Why has the entirety of public health policy contracted down to "Get vaccinated and you're free"?

Part of it is simple ignorance: in the beginning of the pandemic, there was a lot we didn't know. There were clues, of course; hypotheses based on what we knew about other coronaviruses. We could

have guessed at airborne transmission, immune suppression, viral persistence, and rapid evolution, but we didn't *know* these things conclusively. We didn't know the exact numbers for case fatality, transmission, long-term symptoms, etc. But we didn't need to know. The precautionary principle could have guided us to keep up avoidance and containment practices until we knew *exactly* what we were dealing with. And yet, the clearer the picture has become, the more we have *reduced* those measures, instead of ramping them up. COVID is *more dangerous* than initially expected, and yet we have continued to make ourselves *more vulnerable*.

The cold truth of the matter is that the motive behind COVID minimization is greed and social control. The capitalist system depends on *constant* growth: constant production, constant consumption, constant expansion of profits. Even brief pauses — such as a month-long stay-at-home order — have disastrous effects on **capital**. Implementing the mass prevention

strategies necessary to slow down transmission (daily rapid testing, contact tracing, guaranteed paid leave for exposed workers, high-quality respirators, etc.) is expensive, and eats into profits. An information campaign explaining why everyone needs to stay home, instead of contributing to "the economy," eats into profits further. Winding down all non-essential business and keeping it shuttered until the *true* end of the pandemic would contract the economy down to only what is necessary for society to function. The opportunities for financial capital to invest in new, profitable enterprises would vanish faster than they reemerge.

For **capitalism** to function, it requires two things: a steady supply of workers producing **value** and an unending flow of consumption to realize that value as profit for the capitalist. The onset of a pandemic presented a challenge on both of those fronts. Workers getting sick en masse and being forced to stay home for a couple of weeks — or even dying or becoming disabled and exiting the workforce

altogether — was only one potential headache for the capitalist class. Far worse was the prospect of workers staying home *out of precaution*, thereby grinding production to a halt. Consumers staying home and buying only the essentials would prevent the realization of profits across huge swathes of the economy, cutting off the flow of capital necessary to keep the whole system running.

The moment it became obvious to market analysts that COVID was more than just a local Chinese outbreak, it triggered utter panic in the financial sector. Fears about the slowdown of profits led to several mass stock sell-offs from investors, lowering stock value, triggering even more panic-selling, across multiple different days. This wasn't just speculation: decreased demand for oil rapidly triggered a massive price war that caused prices to spiral for months until becoming *negative*, with the holders of oil futures paying to offload their contracts. Without ramping demand back up, production of this and other key commodities would be financially toxic.

Capitalism also relies on a reserve army of labor to keep labor costs artificially deflated. A contracted economy, in which any worker willing to work is a rare commodity, tips the balance of power in favor of workers. Workers could more easily bargain for higher wages and safer working conditions (including liberal COVID leave). Most worryingly of all, in the context of long-term precautionary measures, the population would get used to a dangerous notion — that we have value beyond our labor and our consumption. When faced with the prospect of death or disability, the contradictions become sharpened in our eyes. Hundreds of millions of workers would suddenly ask "Why am I risking my life for this?" The frustration at a choice between abject poverty and potentially contracting a debilitating condition would galvanize workers to stand up for our rights. Waves of labor mobilization, rent strikes, workplace lockouts, boycotts, and more would sweep the country — and the world. It would be the greatest challenge to the political power of the capitalist

class in a century.

**The Strategy**

*Actually solving* the pandemic was never in the cards for the U.S. and the rest of the capitalist world. It would have necessitated deep international cooperation, massive investment in clean air infrastructure, a persistent information campaign (and censoring of hazardous misinformation), efforts to build public trust in government, guaranteed paid leave, nationalization of key industries, and more. Basically, it would involve massively undercutting the philosophy of free market capitalism.

Instead, the explicit goal of the ruling class has been to make the pandemic simply disappear from *public perception*. Any reminder of the existence of a highly-transmissible, highly-dangerous, mass-disabling disease could trigger panic, or worse: organized, militant labor action. Averting this crisis required a careful campaign of culture-crafting; the people themselves needed to become convinced that there was no reason to fight. Consent

for protracted mass infection needed to be manufactured.

There are three main ways this hegemonic narrative around COVID has been propagated to the public: **official rhetoric**, **public policy**, and **media framing**. These three facets of idea propagation feed into each other, and all three are maneuvered in various ways by the interests of capital. The process by which a hegemonic narrative is crafted in the capitalist sphere is not quite as straightforward as one might expect. It's not a simple matter of a state propaganda department deciding on a central doctrine, issuing scripts to paid actors, and imprisoning all who dissent. There is no party line for the capitalists, no single convocation of business elites, and relatively few shadowy backroom deals. Explicit planning meetings *are* held — independently — among the leadership of different ruling class parties and distinct business interests, and their similar class interests lead them to similar priorities. But the way *narrative* unity of this sort is achieved is not through an all-powerful conspiracy. Instead, the

"decision" for how to frame events arises organically from the interplay of the many individual sectors that comprise the ruling class propaganda machine.

The tone struck by what we think of as official sources sets the stage for the broader social response. This rhetoric comes from a variety of places — heads of state, government agencies, individual experts, think tanks, and other entities imbued with a sense of authority. These are voices that we are socialized to pay attention to. When they speak, they easily garner media attention. A news outlet that ignores or disputes these sources loses access to them and invites flak, thereby harming their ability to sell more news. These voices are generally in the room when policies are crafted — or crafting the policies themselves. What "the experts" say matters, and the particular experts being promoted by governments and corporations have steadily coalesced around rhetoric that minimizes the public health threat of the virus.

Official rhetoric does not always come to

total agreement on presentation. The two-party system in the U.S. is often characterized by competing "official" stances, even when both stances are de facto acceptable to the established capitalist order. Throughout 2020, many prominent figures, including Donald Trump, attempted to prematurely declare the end of the pandemic. The Great Barrington Declaration attempted to launder the notion that attempts to mitigate the pandemic were harmful, and that we should instead try to reach "herd immunity" by allowing the virus to run rampant through the population. This was a non-starter in terms of propaganda material, since we could all see the devastation in plain sight. However, this was still valuable to the ruling class, because it laid the groundwork for a potent narrative — that of the "level-headed pragmatists" guiding us through the pandemic. Against the backdrop of conspiracy theories, bunk cures, and political disengagement from the reality of the pandemic, there came a promise from the liberal wing of the ruling class: "Unlike

our opponents, we actually care, and we will get you through this." Despite the difference in tone, the trajectory of the *policies* themselves has largely been preserved across political lines.

Pandemic public policy has been both shaped by and indicative of the official rhetoric of whoever happens to be in charge. It has reflected the recommendations of experts — those experts which had been *chosen by* the ruling government. In places governed by more liberal tendencies, curfews and cloth mask mandates lasted longer, instilling an implicit message that, unlike those science-denying conservatives, the liberals were "following the science." This meant that, when these half-measures were rescinded, it seemed obvious that *now* people could feel safe putting themselves at risk.

Every policy choice has acted to shape the public's perception of the pandemic. Mandating that businesses put stickers on the floor to demarcate 6 feet of distance hammered home the false notion that

being 6 feet apart from others protected you. Requirements that bars and restaurants be closed for indoor dining made people reckon with the fact that these necessarily-unmasked spaces were dangerous. Reversing that restriction while mask *recommendations* were still in effect created confusion and demonstrated that the recommendations were meaningless. School districts shuttering physical classrooms put every parent on high alert for their children's safety, while so-called "hybrid learning" taught people that safety was a parent's choice. As school districts moved away from virtual school altogether, the message became clear: there is no reason to worry about your children getting sick. Steadily, measures put into place to protect people from the virus have been reversed, until the current state of affairs, where every public health "policy" has become instead a recommendation — and those recommendations don't even come close to establishing true safety.

Economic measures taken during the pandemic have worked in a similar way to

public health policy. In the beginning, policies were put in place to help the people who would be economically impacted: paycheck protection programs, tax credits, expanded unemployment benefits, eviction moratoria, stimulus checks, and student debt deferral. This aid was granted to ensure that the economic situation for the working class never got so despondent that workers would have greater incentive to rebel through labor militancy, rent strikes, or even violent uprisings. As these measures dried up, they came with the accompanying message: "You're on your own now."

Throughout the pandemic, media attention has been focused on reproducing official rhetoric through op-eds and interviews. The experts promoted above all have always been selected based on their proximity to power, both in terms of their official appointment and their rhetorical line. As governments and agencies solidified their pandemic-minimization rhetoric and policies, individuals who championed that line became even more appealing. The lure of

manufactured conflict allowed media companies to profit by highlighting astroturfed, unpopular movements protesting all forms of public health policy. Depending on their particular cultural bent, news corporations could position themselves either as "freedom-fighters," standing up to the government tyranny of half-baked precautionary measures, or as "champions of reason," pushing back against misinformation and science denial.

In all cases, the pivot in 2021 was palpable. Now that vaccines had arrived, there was a feasible narrative for transitioning away from "economically-disruptive restrictions." As soon as you got vaccinated, you were free to get back to normal. "Fresh air smells sweeter without masks!" proclaimed the first lady, triumphantly. Summer of 2021 was full of freshly-inoculated people enjoying significant levels of antibody-based protection, and cases were at their lowest point. The media trumpeted this wonderful news at every opportunity, showcasing ecstatic public health officials,

booming businesses, and throngs of maskless people, while ignoring the still-omnipresent circulation of background cases.

**Prognosis**

With every new major variant, cries of "No one could have seen this coming!" quickly give way to "At last, the pandemic is over." The same refuted myths of herd immunity, hybrid immunity, and vaccinated immunity keep cropping up, only to be dashed to pieces by the next wave. In the latter half of 2022, we entered a phase of multiple overlapping variants — all deliberately still referred to by their parent, omicron, to avoid panic. The baseline of weekly infections and deaths have remained higher than at any other phase of the pandemic, save for spikes as a new dominant strain emerged. The expert, government, and media line has stagnated at a calibrated silence, interspersed with the occasional recommendation to get vaccinated. Fitted respirators are recommended (lumped in with less-effective cloth and surgical

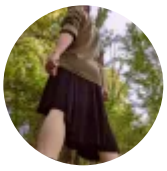
masks), but they are not mandated, and rarely even modeled. Schools are fully in-person, despite their established role as hotspots of community transmission. At every opportunity, governments, corporations, and community organizations congratulate themselves on making it through the pandemic.

This is not simple negligence on the part of those who govern and shape our society. It amounts to **social murder**: the establishment of policies that place large numbers of people on the path to an early and unnatural death. You have the *right* to health, and that right is being deliberately stripped away from you with a policy of mass infection. Just because the choice isn't being made with the *specific goal* of eliminating us (such as in the case of genocide), doesn't absolve the choice itself. And that choice is being *continually reaffirmed* every day. The calculation has been made with no special regard for human health; only the preservation of the social order. Too much death and disease could challenge the power of the ruling class; **15 million excess deaths** is just the

cost of doing business.

We are at a crossroads in this ongoing crisis. As we continue to pretend everything is normal, the virus continues to evolve. Multiple lineages are circulating, accumulating mutations that help them evade immunity and run roughshod over defenseless populations. The next uber-variant is likely already here: the XBB.1 lineage is as different from the original SARS-CoV-2 virus as that virus was from SARS, and has an even higher ability to infect cells. With every wave that washes over us, our organs and our immune systems become weaker. Life expectancy is declining at an alarming rate. We are an increasingly disabled population, with no community support — or even awareness. The longer we allow ourselves to be governed by a culture of individualism, capitalist greed, and ignorance, the sicker we will all become.

## Author



**Cde. Editor Dremel**

Comrade Dremel is a member of the USU Staff, an experienced educator, organizer, and scientist based in Maryland. Their organizing work has largely centered around labor agitation and fostering scientific literacy, with an emphasis on climate change and pandemic preparedness.

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COVID COVID-19 DISEASE SOCIAL MURDER

« PREVIOUS
The Cold is A Weapon

NEXT »
White Terror in Atlanta: Stop Cop City

## 70 COMMENTS

**Michelle Akers**

JANUARY 10, 2023 AT 5:55 AM

This is the best overview article I've seen yet! It bogs down a bit when it hits the technical studies, but if the medical angle is Greek to you just skip down, because the subsequent analysis of WHY the gov'ts etc are doing what they're doing is terrific.

**Dremel** ☆

JANUARY 11, 2023 AT 10:19 PM

Thank you so much! I kept trying to find a balance between technical and accessible language, because stripping away too much of the technical detail would lead to an explanation that is oversimplified to the point of being inaccurate. As it is, there was a lot that had to be cut. But I appreciate that you were still able to get something out of it!

**Carla** ☆

JANUARY 14, 2023 AT 11:57 AM

Excellent, excellent work. Very sadly, however, there's almost no one I can share it with, without both the message and the messenger (in this case, me) being rejected out of hand. Nevertheless, I am very grateful and thank you for the hard work you put into this piece for the benefit of those few of us who attempt to live in reality.

**Juana Bee** ☆

JANUARY 19, 2023 AT 7:59 PM

I agree. I tried to share it with a friend, and he has gone off the tracks. It is all so clear, and there is little to argue with. But people who don´t want to hear it will dismiss it based on the name of the author alone.

**Lesley Dewar** ☆

JANUARY 20, 2023 AT 10:02 AM

As an Aussie cancer survivor who went into personal total isolation in March 2020, and who has pretty much maintained it, I agree with you

I still practice all the recommended preventative measures, including being properly masked whenever I am away from my own home . Occasionally I participate in outdoor open air events, but they are few and far between

My life revolves around my cats, my garden, and being visited by my children who respect my isolation. Fortunately I am retired and can live on my OAP. With social media I am well connected to a large group of people, so my intellectual stimulation is well catered.

I cannot see any short term change to my lifestyle and have started learning to play the piano.

I fear for the future of my children and grandchildren because there is no collective will to protect them or their fellow citizens of later generations than mine.

In 2016, my vibrant 94yo Mum died from SARS, and I am still sad about that, since she was almost totally recovered from pneumonia. I will do whatever I can to avoid a similar fate. Because no one else is doing it

for me

This article is both educational and frightening because the abandonment of Zero COVID by China means there is less than a snowflake's chance of surviving in hell that our capitalist society will do what is necessary to avoid future excess deaths or long COVID rendering a large part of the population disabled

**Jim Thrain** ☆

JANUARY 15, 2023 AT 12:53 AM

Great article, thank you so much. It's reassuring to know I'm not alone in being horrified with this situation. The series of lies we've been told. It's dystopian what we've been expected to live through.

**K** ☆

JANUARY 17, 2023 AT 12:43 PM

It would be helpful to provide references for the first part – the

medical.

**E. (Edward) Henry Schoenberger** ☆

JANUARY 18, 2023 AT 8:23 AM

From being a consultant to bio scientist/physicians I have learned SARS-CoV-2 is a GOF (gain of function) virus, engineered to suppress defeat when attacked and accelerate – which is exactly how it presents since first attacked by the vaccines that are derivatives of 20th C. antibody platforms. Unfortunately, not enough people on our globe were vaccinated initially, hence, COVID has continued to accelerate and there is no empirical evidence to doubt it will continue to exist as well as form new mutations which the vaccines and boosters based on 20th C. antibody platform derivatives will be increasingly helpless to combat. So, there scientific world, and the FDA must be open to searching for a truly breakthrough drug/vaccine to reliably target the T-cell side of the human immune system to elicit strong

continuing killer T-cell engagement that will recognize the shape shifting Spike to defeat it.

**anyiki** ☆

JANUARY 19, 2023 AT 10:29 PM

How about the decoy drugs! https://scitechdaily.com/breakthrough-receptor-decoy-drug-neutralizes-covid-19-virus-including-omicron-and-other-variants/

**curious** ☆

JANUARY 21, 2023 AT 7:36 AM

Great overview!

Although there is no formal conspiracy needed,, what about the role of Evangelical nationalists and the dark money funding a lot of the pandemic response? These people know what's good for them, their interests converge, and some will be active in disseminating propaganda and disinfo. Is there no dark money

involved in generating a pandemic response that's good for capitalism?

Also; what about the increased threat of fascism the politics of the pandemic presents? There's an opportunity for political upheaval as govt's are destabilized & war is waged on immigrants, Muslims, Indigenous, LGBTQIA+, & Black & Brown people in the name of capitalism. Seems MAGA Trumplicans and Evangelicals have found their opportunity in the pandemic

**Lyn Waite**

JANUARY 13, 2023 AT 10:43 AM

Agreed!

**Patricia Kreger**

JANUARY 13, 2023 AT 5:12 PM

Agree with you completely.

**Davey Heller**

JANUARY 11, 2023 AT 4:08 AM

Unfortunately too many Marxist groups

have paid lip service to the ongoing Covid Pandemic, writing about it occasionally as part of the laundry list of capitalist disasters rather than highlighting it as an ongoing and worsening social crime against the global working class.

Likewise so much of the "Covid Community" who seek to raise awareness about the ongoing threat of Covid lack the class analysis to explain why even the most basic health measures are being thrown out the window. Without class analysis such commentators can too easily fall into despair and confusion.

Thankyou Comrade Dremel for this article which in contrast makes both the class analysis and science behind the Covid pandemic so clearly accessible. I will do my best to distribute it.

---

**Dremel** ☆

JANUARY 11, 2023 AT 10:26 PM

I appreciate that! Both of those groups you identify were the main motivation behind the article. It is truly incomprehensible to me that anyone

can call themselves a Marxist and not be full-throated in their commitment to organizing around the pandemic. This should have been THE defining moment for Marxists in the imperial core.

As for liberals, I have been seeing them sharing this around, sometimes with the caveat of "These people are communists, but the analysis is good." And others are quoting directly from the political analysis, which I hope indicates some willingness to acknowledge that the system isn't just "broken"; it's fundamentally destructive and working exactly as designed.

---

**Jummy** ☆

JANUARY 14, 2023 AT 1:24 PM

Excellent, excellent article.
Very well written.
As an individual currently living with Long Covid, who tried so hard to avoid the virus (I've been wearing N95s since 2020) and who eventually got it because I had to take off my mask briefly in an unventilated space

for an official ID, this article resonates with me.
They are ready to sacrifice millions of lives (including children) to disease and disability just to maintain the capitalist status quo.
This is an unsustainable stance and something must give. How long it will take, is another question.

**Danielle** ☆

JANUARY 18, 2023 AT 3:04 PM

Very well put together article. Thank you for sharing this.
Can I ask simply – what is the solution?
Continued lockdowns?
With interest in Capitalism, power & control, from the powers that be aside, what can they do to reduce the risk to society?
I am a nurse, I agree with the measures that were put in place: masks, lockdowns, social distancing etc. I was so excited when the vaccine was approved and waited patiently to be called for it. But, what is the

answer at this stage?
We could stay in lockdown but is it not just prolonging the inevitable? By the sound of this, it's waiting for us no matter what we do. I really would love to hear a sensible and practical answer to this question.
Many thanks.

**Christopher Ward** ☆

JANUARY 21, 2023 AT 4:47 AM

Besides the obvious already addressed in this article, here's a thought … https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-04-01/brisbane-school-no-covid-omicron-outbreaks-term-1/100956850
P.S. Excellent article … with references!

**Manu** ☆

JANUARY 21, 2023 AT 9:26 PM

I think the answer is cleaning indoor air to the max in every indoor space. However, in order to do this effectively, we must

acknowledge that the pandemic is ongoing and cannot be ignored. We must also adapt our approach to align with the reality of 2023, rather than clinging to 2019.

**Manu** ☆

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**Ms Sapphire** ☆

JANUARY 18, 2023 AT 10:26 PM

Amazing article Comrade Dremel. I will share widely. So much of COVID info I read lacks a class analysis. I'm too affected to say more at the moment.
Thank you

**Robert Paulson** ☆

JANUARY 23, 2023 AT 1:57 PM

If so many people have died or been disabled by Long Covid, how come I don't know anyone?

It's not like I'm some rich guy living in my ivory tower. I'm just a normal dude with a normal job living a normal life. I've known tons of people who have had covid (including me) but no one died of it and no one is disabled from it.

Am I the luckiest man on Earth or is Long covid being exaggerated?

**Zozo**

JANUARY 11, 2023 AT 5:35 PM

I am so appreciate of this article. The most active Maoist organizers in my city have aligned themselves with the freedom convoy and perpetuate Covid misinformation that makes organizing as an immunocompromised person impossible and dangerous, and they have

abandoned those most harmed by the pandemic. This article has restored my faith that there are communists out there that still care if people get disabled and die preventable deaths.

**Dremel** ☆

JANUARY 11, 2023 AT 10:31 PM

I'm glad to hear this helped. One of my main thoughts in writing this was that, even if it doesn't reach a single COVID minimizer and change their mind, at least it might make some people feel vindicated and less alone.

I wish I had been able to fit in a discussion of the deep alienation wrought by the pandemic, especially among people who already were or recently have become disabled. The human aspect shouldn't be overlooked. Because yes, communists should care.

**Cynthia** ☆

JANUARY 13, 2023 AT 10:41 AM

Definitely felt the vindication. This

article is excellent in every aspect, I really appreciate it.

**Rachel** ☆

JANUARY 17, 2023 AT 3:03 PM

Yes, I really appreciate the vindication. I feel I am living a different life to everybody else: as if I imagined the last three years and all the changes we envisaged in order to move on from the pandemic. Instead we moved on from the pandemic by pretending it doesn't exist. When I say 'we' I am not counting myself – my life is completely different from three years ago. Needed to read this.

**Alicia**

JANUARY 11, 2023 AT 10:53 PM

I came across this article on Twitter. You have managed to condense everything I have learned and more since 2020 into an amazingly well written piece. Thank you so much for taking the time to write this. I wish everyone could read this.

As an immunocompromised person, it has been hell trying to communicate all of this to people. The worst part is that as society moves on, those of us that are at risk or just know how bad it is are treated like we're crazy.

I haven't gotten it yet, and I hope I never do. Having 2 autoimmune diseases and seeing what it does to the immune system makes me think I wouldn't survive. Even if it didn't kill me, I think it would leave me even more disabled than I already am.

Thank you for getting the word out. I hope you can encourage as many people as possible to read this.

---

**RadicalCommunist**

JANUARY 19, 2023 AT 3:59 AM

If you, or anyone else who may be willing to shun society permanently, want to live in a zero covid bubble in a remote location with a few leftist queer people, contact

zerocovidintentionalcommunity@gmail.com

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**Felix**

JANUARY 12, 2023 AT 4:34 PM

Great read, thx. Makes perfectly sense for me. I came to similar conclusions in the past. I'm writing for Austria and did a great deal of research about the Swedish Way, Tegnell, Great Barrington and their influence on pandemic responsens worldwide.

https://coronawissen.com/2021/04/08/incompetence-epistemic-trespassing-and-conflict-of-interests-why-austria-failed/

In April 2021 I proposed three main reasons for failing pandemic response:

Incompetence, Epistemic Trespassing and Ideology. The last one comes somewhat close to your conclusions, though far less sophisticated vocabulary and I didn't jump to the greater conclusion about capitalism, economy, business like you did very well here.

Thank you anyway. Your piece should be available in german.

**Tim**

JANUARY 13, 2023 AT 1:24 PM

I remain part-locked down in Portbou, Spain with my partner who has M.E., the only 2 masking in whole town & in our N99's. For 3 yrs I've been running a telegram list that has said precisely this, but not as succinctly. I have despaired at how movements from anarchism, feminism, communisation, LGBTQ, even the non-immunocompromised members of disabled fightback- all of which I have identified with- have succumbed to pandemic minimizing & haven't even made all indoor events accesible with

ventilation, N95 masking, & online attendance possibilities etc as if that were not profoundly exclusionary & going along softly, with materially-real eugenics. I know we must all abandon no-one & anything else amounts to fake, ableist politics. We must call out left meetings, conferences, & practices that are exclusionary to the immunocompromised & thus reactionary & ableist.

Thanks as just 1 piece this clear headed & caring makes a growingly bitter & resigned hopelessness not sink in as much. As pointed out sharply above, there are so many class aware activists who have been reactionary in the pandemic & so many immunocompromised & healthworkers so clear about the virus & inspiring despite their despair; but often lacking the understanding of why capital must gaslight everyone. No more ableism in meetings & actions. Thanks, will circulated this fine piece.

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**Joseph**

JANUARY 13, 2023 AT 5:50 AM

The problem i see in this is – you blame gouverments and the capitalist system but what else are you proposing then? What sould all the gouverments do in the world? You can see what happened in China . So what i am missing from intelligent person like you is a plan how humains can live with Covid in the next years. Is it enough if everybody gets his vaccine every year – should we instore maks obligation indoor

– or what is your plan? Blame politicis is simple but people are also sick an tired – and don't forget ther eare peoples who can't afford more lockdowns ore restrictions – not rich peoples – people with restaurants, small businesses, theater etc.

**Carla**

JANUARY 14, 2023 AT 12:01 PM

Some here may find some of the answers they seek in a short book by Jason Hickel: "Less Is More: How Degrowth Will Save the World." I recommend it highly. It is available in paperback, and shipped free to the US, from Blackwells.co.uk

**Lyn Waite**

JANUARY 13, 2023 AT 10:43 AM

Agreed!

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Excellent article. I wish it would reach a

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**J. Katsfoter**

JANUARY 13, 2023 AT 5:16 PM

> The press is always happy to talk to mass media about republishing, and I'm sure Cde. Dremel would be in favor of it – if we could find an outlet, we'd definitely talk with them.

**Geraint Trevelyan**

JANUARY 13, 2023 AT 1:15 PM

As an actual epidemiologist: the basic tenets of this article are, unfortunately, all

too close to the mark in accuracy One point though: whilst not wishing to appear to support any form of 'conspiracy theory', the process was rather more co-ordinated that purely organic as is suggested. As Goering – allegedly – stated whilst at Nuremberg for his post-WW2 trial: 'voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy'. Same methodology still pertains, I am very much afraid.

---

**Chuck Balmsworth**

JANUARY 13, 2023 AT 3:47 PM

Singapore is doing an excellent job with informing citizens to mask, installing clean air in buildings and maintaining health care system. They are capitalist aren't they? I agree ongoing pandemic is a huge problem and there is a lack of information as pointed out, but not sure what would benefit capitalist class by having more sick and dead people as pandemic rages, and if they did know it's a problem, they are not immune to the same fate, especially as medical systems break down. Long term I don't see any benefit to

anyone by allowing COVID to spread unabated.

**EpiKate**

JANUARY 17, 2023 AT 1:49 AM

Bingo.

**V.I. Fishmael**

FEBRUARY 1, 2023 AT 4:41 PM

Wow! I cannot say enough how positively impressed I was with the analysis and writing (and the avoidance of Marxist jargon — which I was expecting). This article needs broad distribution.

Thank you, Comrade Dremel!

As a reply to Chuck, one could also ask why the de facto rulers are NOT trying to prevent nuclear war, or multiple environmental disasters. I don't have an answer for this, really, but I have to guess that they simply can NOT contemplate these matters as pertaining to themselves — their psyches seem to be mostly blinding them to continue

> their old patterns, even though EVERYONE will be effected (or 'infected', in this case). Might anyone else have some notion about this seeming conundrum?

**Mike Fenn**

JANUARY 13, 2023 AT 6:59 PM

Yes, Joseph, correct you are. There is no explicit or obvious long drawn out description of "solutions" to the pandemic by comrade Dremel here. That would require a few more paragraphs and an entire article to properly address. But he does mention a number of these solutions and what would be the overall strategy to fight this pandemic from both a truly ethical and socialist/communist (marxist) point of view; aka Truly protecting ppl and ending the threat to public health instead of literally murduring ppl thru intentional neglect in order to prioritize profits of Capitalist class. Those would be to take the enormous surpluses generated by global capitalist system earmarked for luxury consumption of well to do on one hand, and for more profitable investment

to exploit labour (wealth accumulation) and WASTING it (according to a Capitalist accounting of things), on paying ppl to stay home, protecting themselves and others, spending on social services (child care, education, mental health, access to alternative leisure and social interaction, etc., etc.,). All of which would require taxing both the wealthy and their Capital (corporations) sitting on trillions, which modern day Capitalism is awash, and would more than cover the cost of eradicating the virus, instead of simply "learning to live" with it, and sacrificing hundreds of millions in an effort to maintain the system. Which like in every socio-economic crisis attempt to make the working class majority pay, especially among the poorest and most marginalized sections of the working class.

Excellent article comrade Dremel. We should be keen to continue to organize around the pandemic which is continuing to victimize millions of workers with long covid and worse; death. And increasing the ranks of genuine revolutionary socialist organization.

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**Mike Fenn**

JANUARY 13, 2023 AT 7:10 PM

A further point I forgot to mention is that indeed paying ppl not to work, and

consuming the surplus in this way is "dis-accumulation", actually whittling away the mass of profit, for which unnecessary luxury and "consumer" consumption, is designed to INCREASE in the normal operation of the system. Which of course is inimical to interests of Capital, but threatens society with Capital strike and or flight. Such as we see in the usual Capitalist recession. A serious threat to the system which of course governments ("the committee for managing the common affairs of the Capitalist Class" would indeed be desperate to counter. Little wonder the determined ideological offensive described in this article.

---

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This is an unsustainable stance and something must give. How long it will take, is another question.

---

**Jon Cloke**

JANUARY 16, 2023 AT 11:54 AM

This goes a thousand times over for climate change:

"It would have necessitated deep international cooperation, massive investment in clean air infrastructure, a persistent information campaign (and censoring of hazardous misinformation), efforts to build public trust in government, guaranteed paid leave, nationalization of key industries, and

more. Basically, it would involve massively undercutting the philosophy of free market capitalism."

There is NO hope of taking effective action in terms of mitigation, and suggestions such as the 'green economy' are equivalent to 'the pandemic is over'...

---

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JANUARY 16, 2023 AT 11:54 AM

This goes a thousand times over for climate change:

"It would have necessitated deep international cooperation, massive investment in clean air infrastructure, a persistent information campaign (and censoring of hazardous misinformation), efforts to build public trust in government, guaranteed paid leave, nationalization of key industries, and more. Basically, it would involve massively undercutting the philosophy of free market capitalism."

There is NO hope of taking effective action in terms of mitigation, and suggestions

such as the 'green economy' are equivalent to 'the pandemic is over'...

**James Rubin**

JANUARY 16, 2023 AT 5:25 PM

Great article, thank you for writing this.

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JANUARY 16, 2023 AT 5:25 PM

Great article, thank you for writing this.

**Lynda Henderson**

JANUARY 16, 2023 AT 7:54 PM

Many thanks. You condensed my 3 years of reading/learning/thinking so beautifully. Such concise work.
I will certainly be sharing this on social media. J

**James Smith**

JANUARY 17, 2023 AT 11:42 AM

As a severe COVID survivor, thank you. In March of 2020, I was hospitalized and placed into ICU after essentially slowly dying for two weeks in my apartment. It

infected every major organ: Heart, Kidneys, Liver, Lungs (Bilateral Pneumonia on top of COVID), CNS, Intestines, Musculature, Brain. Flashes of light with my eyes closed as if someone was taking pictures.

Almost died twice in ICU. MIS-A when released. Six months to be able to walk around my block. A year later, LC resulted in a DVT that migrated to my right lung, resulting in a full on PE.

I thought, then and forever: "If this virus is this bad, surely we'll do everything in our power to extinguish it."

I have almost died three times. To see the President declare "The Pandemic is over" when 2400 people a week are still dropping dead from it mortified me. To continuously hear minimization, irrationalization, virtually any and everything to ignore what this utter bastard of a disease does, and continues to do, horrifies me.

**Jane K**

JANUARY 18, 2023 AT 12:46 AM

> Guess what? Everything you wrote is true, PLUS: COVID is now considered an autoimmune disease.
> https://www.autoimmuneregistry.org/long-covid-announcement

**K**

JANUARY 17, 2023 AT 12:43 PM

It would be helpful to provide references for the first part – the medical.

**Jane K**

JANUARY 18, 2023 AT 12:46 AM

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**P Viro**

JANUARY 18, 2023 AT 2:28 AM

This is spot on in terms of the political side of things. As someone who works with Virologists I would point out that some of the worst case scenario science

you mentioned is still up for debate, and things like Covid induced immune system damage is complex and not yet understood. Most of your arguments about the health outlook are solid but some may not hold up to future data. I'm only mentioning this because I don't want people to discredit your article if any of it overstates the scientific evidence.

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**E. (Edward) Henry Schoenberger**

JANUARY 18, 2023 AT 8:23 AM

From being a consultant to bio scientist/physicians I have learned SARS-CoV-2 is a GOF (gain of function) virus, engineered to suppress defeat when attacked and accelerate – which is exactly how it presents since first attacked by the vaccines that are derivatives of 20th C. antibody platforms. Unfortunately, not enough people on our globe were vaccinated initially, hence, COVID has continued to accelerate and there is no empirical evidence to doubt it will continue to exist as well as form new mutations which the vaccines and boosters based on 20th C. antibody platform derivatives will be increasingly helpless to combat. So, there scientific world, and the FDA must be open to searching for a truly breakthrough drug/vaccine to reliably target the T-cell side of the human immune system to elicit strong continuing killer T-cell engagement that will recognize the shape shifting Spike to defeat it.

**anyiki**

JANUARY 19, 2023 AT 10:29 PM

How about the decoy drugs!
https://scitechdaily.com/breakthrough-receptor-decoy-drug-neutralizes-covid-19-virus-including-omicron-and-other-variants/

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**Danielle**

JANUARY 18, 2023 AT 3:04 PM

Very well put together article. Thank you for sharing this.
Can I ask simply – what is the solution? Continued lockdowns?
With interest in Capitalism, power & control, from the powers that be aside, what can they do to reduce the risk to society?
I am a nurse, I agree with the measures that were put in place: masks, lockdowns, social distancing etc. I was so excited when the vaccine was approved and waited patiently to be called for it. But, what is the answer at this stage?
We could stay in lockdown but is it not just prolonging the inevitable? By the

sound of this, it's waiting for us no matter what we do. I really would love to hear a sensible and practical answer to this question.
Many thanks.

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**Bukko Boomeranger**

JANUARY 19, 2023 AT 11:47 PM

Hello Comrade Dremel. Excellent article! (With one major oversight on your part, which I'll get to in a moment.) I found your post via a mention on the Naked Capitalism econoblog (the real N.C., not the mirrors/fakes that also show up on the pingbacks.) N.C. is not socialist, as indicated in its very name, but they cock a snoot at the evils of the current crapitalist system.

I'm a registered nurse in Australia, and I geek out on details such as you mention. The reason I pay close attention is because I had Covid literally in my face at work in hospitals, as well as in everyday life. I was forced out of the workforce in March 2022 when I declined to get the ineffective but mandatory booster, which would have

been Shot #3 for me. My hospital system decided to surrender to the virus then, with the idea that "since we're making you take this jab, we don't have to keep screening the patients so much and trying to protect the workers." Vax refusal gave me a way to look like a conscientious objector instead of what I really was, a self-preservation-minded deserter in the midst of the Omicron wave.

Everything you write is doG's honest truth, as far as I'm concerned. But you overlook one important factor of why the "unlimited infection" capitalists' strategy works so well. Because it's what the populace wants! (Sad, willfully blind bastards that they are. "Bah-studs" in Aussie sense, which is not nearly as pejorative as the American usage.)

People want to pretend that the pandemic is over. To repurpose the Prince song, "We're gonna party like it's 2019!" The Bernays-style propaganda by TPTB is effective because it meshes with the innate desires of the masses. They don't like masks. "I can't breeeeeeeathe!" (I have

a stack of N-95s from work that I wear everywhere — makes me feel protected.) They don't want to limit their clubbing, dining-out, movies, air travel or attending super-spreader sports events. It's scary for them to think about the dangers from Covid that you accurately portray. So they act like the metaphorical ostriches with their heads in the sand and eagerly dive into their deaths like (Roy Disney's deceptive) lemming swarms.

The field of humanity is fertile soil for the Masters of the Capitaloverse to sow their seeds of obliviousness in. It wouldn't work so well if a majority was saying "Hell no — I don't want to catch Covid! I might not die today, but I'm worried about what might pop up later with aftereffects." People don't grok delayed consequences very well. By the time they realise, it's too late for many. I reckon the popular mood concerning Covid won't change until 10% of the world's population has died due to it, and another 25% are limping along from Long Covid.

I'm not enough of a conspiracy theorist to

believe that this is centrally planned by some evil cabal at Davos. The world is too complex to be controlled like that. It's just happening because of the operating system of capitalism — "make profits now, the future be damned. Let the futurefolx figure out something to do then." I'm enough of a misanthrope that this does not bother me greatly, especially after the rejecting responses I've gotten from most people when I try to discuss precautionary principles. Nobody likes a Cassandra. In fact, they dislike cautioneers more than death. To paraphrase the wicked wit of American satirist H.L. Mencken, "let the people get what they want, get it good and hard."

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and hard."

**Lesley Dewar**

JANUARY 21, 2023 AT 6:24 PM

As an Aussie cancer survivor who went into personal total isolation in March 2020, and who has pretty much maintained it, I agree with you

I still practice all the recommended preventative measures, including being properly masked whenever I am away from my own home .
Occasionally I participate in outdoor open air events, but they are few and far between

My life revolves around my cats, my garden, and being visited by my children who respect my isolation. Fortunately I am retired and can live on my OAP. With social media I am well connected to a large group of people, so my intellectual stimulation is well catered.

I cannot see any short term change to my lifestyle and have started learning to

play the piano.

I fear for the future of my children and grandchildren because there is no collective will to protect them or their fellow citizens of later generations than mine.

In 2016, my vibrant 94yo Mum died from SARS, and I am still sad about that, since she was almost totally recovered from pneumonia. I will do whatever I can to avoid a similar fate. Because no one else is doing it for me

This article is both educational and frightening because the abandonment of Zero COVID by China means there is less than a snowflake's chance of surviving in hell that our capitalist society will do what is necessary to avoid future excess deaths or long COVID rendering a large part of the population disabled

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**Bukko Boomeranger**

JANUARY 21, 2023 AT 9:26 PM

Sorry to hear about your situation,

Lesley, especially the personal isolation part. It seems like us oldies are the main people who are taking precautions. (I was only one year out from what could have been retirement age before my involuntary exit from the workplace.) Those of us with the fewest years to live are doing the most to preserve them. The mass of people who have the most life-years to lose if they are hobbled by Long Covid — they're the ones who hug blithe ignorance with both hands. Stay strong and realise you're right.

I too was disappointed by China's cessation of Covid Zero policies. I thought that the ostensibly communist ruling party there might have enough of a sense of "let's keep the masses healthy" to stick to it. Aided by the population's cultural dynamic of fearing contagion. They've had so many rampaging diseases in packed cities over the centuries that it seems to be one of their folkways. I was working at a hospital in San

Francisco during SARS I, and the Chinese patients/visitors were great about masking up, even when there were no rules in place. In Melbourne, it's mainly us grey-hairs and Asians who continue to mask.

Sadly, the PRC government seems to have given in to the "let's take care of the economy's health in the short term and not worry about the peoples' health in the long run." Like Comrade Dremel, I am not a conspiracy theorist. But the zeitgeist of capitalism favours eugenics in the case of Covid. It's disproportionately killing people in their 70s and 80s, but they are "useless eaters" to the power structure, which is content to let them cark it. Ditto for people with cancer, diabetes and other long-term health problems, who are more likely to be knocked off by a bout with bat flu. To a capitalist, though, that's a net gain. And society, not just in Oz and the U.S., but EVERYWHERE, doesn't make a peep. They'd squeal if TPTB tried to force more protection

> on them, but they sing and dance for slow death. Hitler, with his original "Aktion T4" eugenics program to kill the mentally deficient, could only have dreamt of having a society that would volunteer to die.

**Dolly**

JANUARY 23, 2023 AT 8:43 PM

This is genuinely the best post I've read throughout the whole pandemic. Thank you. (I feel less crazy now, I'd quite like to be wrong).

**36 TRACKBACKS / PINGBACKS**

- Towards a Scientific Covid Concept - mass extinction event
- Links 1/14/2023 | naked capitalism
- Links 1/14/2023 - Breaking News Log
- Hyperlinks 01/14/2023 | bare capitalism - Citizen Tap
- Enlaces 14/01/2023 | capitalismo desnudo - DinPedia
- Links 1/14/2023 | naked capitalism - Current Time News
- Links 01/14/2023 | naked capitalism - Gnews pub
- Hyperlinks 1/14/2023 | bare capitalism - Beauty & Budget
- Hyperlinks 1/14/2023 | bare capitalism - SimpleSei

- Links 01/14/2023 | naked capitalism - DEUV
- Links 1/14/2023 | naked capitalism – shareprice
- Hyperlinks 1/14/2023 | bare capitalism - Opinion Prime
- Links 1/14/2023 | naked capitalism - westvirginiadigitalnews.com
- Links 1/14/2023 | naked capitalism - Iowa Digital News
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- Links 1/14/2023 | naked capitalism - Aicren
- Links 1/14/2023 | naked capitalism - Washington Digital News
- Links 1/14/2023 | naked capitalism - Agoku

- Links 1/14/2023 | naked capitalism - Nebraska Digital News
- Links 1/14/2023 | naked capitalism - Capital Digital News
- We're Never Getting Back to Normal. You Don't Have to Pretend Anymore. | Later On
- HEALTH | Pearltrees
- Venting About Ventilation in the Time of Covid | FREE the WORDS

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